sound and cleaner energy technologies into the limited public domain for use by developing countries for early adoption, diffusion and deployment accompanied with transfer of financial resources.

Wildlife safeguard

1442. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of elephants and wild lives killed due to accidents met on railway tracks during last five years, year and animal-wise; and

(b) whether all recommendations of Expert Committee, which was formed to safeguard wildlife, have not been properly implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As reported by the State/UT Governments, the number of elephants and tigers killed in train accident during last five years are as follow:

Year	Number of Deaths	
	Tiger	Elephant
2003-04	Nil	13
2004-05	Nil	6
2005-06	1	2
2006-07	1	8
2007-08	2	11

(b) An Expert Committee was constituted in the year 2001 to suggest safeguards for preventing accidental deaths on railway tracks passing through Siliguri Junction to Alipurduar junction of the West Bengal. As reported by the State Government, the Railways have implemented the recommendation of the Expert Committee. However, even after the implementation of the recommendation of the Expert Committee, the accidents are taking place. Ministry has constituted a new Expert Committee in the year 2007 to re-examine and suggest further mitigation measures.

Genetically modified products

1443. SHRI B. S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has asked the Government to consider applications for grant of fresh approvals to genetically modified products after considering biosafety;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in this regard;

(c) the number of approvals for Genetically Modified varieties for the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has permitted the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) notified under the 'Rules 1989' of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 (EPA) to consider any application for grant of approval in accordance with law and after taking into consideration all aspects of biosafety. The GEAC is following a case by case approval in accordance with the rules and guidelines framed under the EPA, 1986 for evaluating environmental and health safety aspects of genetically modified crops.

(c) and (d) Bt cotton is the only transgenic crops approved for commercial cultivation in India since 2002. Presently, 135 Bt cotton hybrids expressing MON 531 (*Cryl Ac* gene), MON 15985 (*Cry 1Ac+Cry 2Ab* gene), JK Event 1 (*Cry 1 Ac* gene) and GFM (*Cry 1A* gene) are under commercial cultivation in India.

Absence of forest officials

1444. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Nagarjuna Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh, Indravati reserves in Chhattisgarh and Palamau in Jharkhand have fallen to Naxals;

(b) the number of forest officials who were deputed there and the number of vacancies exist there;

(c) whether Government is aware that due to absence of forest officials in these reserve forests, the cases of poaching and cutting of forests is on the rise;

(d) if so, in what manner Government is monitoring these reserves in the absence of officials; and

(e) the steps Government is taking to wipe out gangs and poachers operating from these reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Law and order being a State subject, action with the respect to various aspects/issues related to Naxalite activities lies primarily in the domain of the concerned State Government. The Central Government, however, supplements their efforts and resources by a variety of measures. As per the information furnished by the States, Palamau Tiger Reserve in Jharkhand and Indravati Reserve in Chhattisgarh are reported to be affected by Naxalite activities.

(b) Numbers of forest officials deputed and the numbers of vacancies existing are as follows:

Sl. No.	Reserves Forest/States	No. of official deputed	Vacancies
1	Palamau Tiger Reserve/ Jharkhand	110	94
2	Indravati Reserves/ Chhattisgarh	53	19
3	Nagarjuna Srisailam/ Andhra Pradesh	395	64